

Journal

Office of Legislative Counsel

Monday -- 23 May 1955

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1. [ ] Deputy Director of Security, and I met today with former Senator Guy Gillette, Counsel to the Subcommittee on Government Employees Security Program of the Senate Committee on Post Office & Civil Service, together with two members of the Subcommittee staff, Mr. Paul Hadlick and Mr. Hubert H. Finzel. This meeting was held at my request to discuss with Sen. Gillette our proposed reply to the Senator's two letters to the Director seeking information regarding the Agency's security program under Executive Order 10450. Similar requests have gone out to all other agencies. The committee staff pointed out they were receiving much better cooperation from the so-called "sensitive agencies" than from the others.

In connection with Sen. Gillette's letters, it was agreed that we could furnish the name and background of the Agency's Director of Security, but could not furnish such information on the members of his staff; that we would try to work out an acceptable answer, giving some percentage figures on the background of the staff; and that we would set forth the fact that we operated both under E.O. 10450 and the Director's special statutory authority, without giving the names of any members of CIA panels or boards. The staff members showed some interest in CIA use of the polygraph, and will probably wish to explore this matter further. They seemed generally sympathetic to the Agency and its security problems, although they have a rather preconceived notion that the Government security program is probably unfair and poorly or loosely administered in general. We assured them that we would do everything we could to help within the limits of our own security problems. (cc - DD/S, Director of Security).

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2. At the suggestion of Cong. Ford (R., Mich.), Cong. Brownson (R., Ind.) invited me to lunch today and for considerable discussion concerning CIA. Among the matters discussed was the possibility of a Joint Committee for CIA, Mr. Brownson having twice sponsored a resolution to this effect. I stated our views in general on this subject, emphasizing that we felt that it was a matter for the Congress to determine, but that it was our opinion that our relations with the Armed Services Committees gave the desired Congressional supervision. Mr. Brownson stated that he was not pushing his measure until the views of the Clark Committee were available; he felt that the appointment of that Committee reflected great credit on the President. He felt that any Committee should not be restricted to CIA, but should function across-the-board in the intelligence field.

The Congressman had some question concerning coordination and overlapping, although admitting that some overlapping might be beneficial. I explained the coordination picture through the IAC and the development of National Intelligence Estimates. We had some discussion on how our appropriations were handled, which seemed to relieve his mind somewhat on this score. The Congressman also seemed impressed by our current auditing practices, including the virtually current audits of overt funds maintained by GAO.

The Congressman asked what shape our personnel files were in, and seemed impressed that we kept much material on IBM records. He wondered whether we had ever been able to study the individual qualifications of our best people by statistical means to come up with a statistical conclusion as to the best type of person for CIA activities.

Another item in which he expressed interest was our contact with the business community, and he seemed impressed with our activities in this field. While stressing the problem he has often met of overclassification and the hiding of various things under security stamps, he seemed thoroughly aware of the need for security in an Agency such as ours and more readily to understand our problems in this field. I think I also overcame his reservations about a CIA building involving the expenditure of \$50,000,000 so close to the District. The entire conversation, which lasted approximately two hours, was very productive.

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3. I talked with Mr. Besterman, Counsel to the House Immigration Subcommittee, concerning [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] During the conversation, Mr. Besterman sought to make an appointment for me with Subcommittee Chairman Walter to take up certain matters which I felt should be brought to the Chairman's attention. Mr. Walter's secretary told Mr. Besterman that Mr. Walter was sitting right there and said something to the effect that I could tell Mr. Dulles that we still had unfinished business from two years ago to take care of. I walked over to Mr. Walter's office to see if I could pin down this matter, and he was sitting in his outer office and said to come in.

Just after I arrived, a member of Mr. Walter's Un-American Activities Committee staff came in and Mr. Walter immediately started showing him something in the newspaper and then took him by the arm into his inner office. I told Mr. Walter's secretary that I had simply come to find out what it was that he had in mind. Shortly thereafter word was sent out that Mr. Walter was quite busy and would be tied up most of the afternoon. Thus, it appears to me that

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4. Mr. O'Donnell, of the staff of the Senate Investigations Subcommittee, informed me that the Committee had previously taken testimony in executive session regarding the problem of American prisoners, particularly in the Far East. Following that executive session, Chairman McClellan had issued an agreed on statement to the press, but another member of the Committee had leaked further details to the press without authorization regarding the meeting. The Committee is now considering the problem of whether to hold hearings on the subject of civilian prisoners, particularly in the Far East, and no final determination has as yet been made on this subject. Mr. O'Donnell is seeking our assistance on one aspect of the preparation. He would like to have us indicate, from any contacts that we have had with former U. S. civilians imprisoned in the Far East, which ones of these persons might be most knowledgeable and make the best witnesses regarding their treatment in prison, how they

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were handled, and so forth. What the Committee would desire would be the most dramatic cases in order to develop an emotional story in this field. Once we had been able to indicate which ones of these persons might make the best witnesses from the psychological standpoint, they would then approach these persons directly to see whether they would be willing to testify.

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